“Rain, rain and more rain predicted” seemed to be the weather forecast for the entire month of May. Long held records were broken on the amount of rain received (10.45” just on the reservation alone) in many areas of Texas. From severe thunderstorms, tornado warnings and watch, including golf ball size hail, we are thankful our reservation did not suffer major damages nor extreme flooding.

We offer our sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones in the flood waters and offer words of encouragement to the communities throughout seventy counties in the State of Texas who are rebuilding from the destruction of these storms. Our sincere appreciation to the response personnel, fire, police, medical, rescue units, electrical lineman, clean up companies and the many volunteers who have and continue to serve during this time of need.

Last month, we welcomed Johnny Stafford in the capacity of full-time Tribal Council Member to our offices located in the Cultural Building. He left his position with the Texas Forest Service to fully dedicate his time to the Tribe and his duties as Tribal Council Secretary. We appreciate the work he has put forth thus far and the effort in learning his responsibilities and duties on Tribal Council.

A signing ceremony with Tribal Council, Tribal Forestry and U.S. Forest Service Representatives were held in Council Chambers on Wednesday, May 6. The USDA, Forest Service, National Forests & Grasslands in Texas’ Participating Agreement Supplemental Project Agreement (ACITC Resolution #2015-30) was made with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe and the U.S. Forest Service. An in-depth general project description, responsibilities and cost analysis were mutually acceptable to both parties. A six-person crew of our Tribal Heritage Paraprofessionals will be assigned to archaeological surveys on the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas to provide pedestrian reconnaissance and subsurface probing (shovel testing).

Tribe and US Forest Service sign Project Agreement

Tribal Council would like to offer our appreciation to Tribal Administrator Stephanie Williams, Historic Preservation Officer Bryant Celestine, Forestry Director Don Sylestine, Forestry Technician/Heritage Paraprofessional Kerwin “Kowee” Williams, Finance Director Donna Dickens, Finance Administrative Assistant Rashyal Sylestine & Finance Manager Melinda Sylestine for their valuable input toward this agreement.

We would like to acknowledge both Krista Langley and Gesse Bullock, Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Members, for their work with the U.S. Forest Service. “The Tribe has a great spokesperson in Krista (Forestry) and a hardworking Firefighter in Gesse.” (words of praise shared by U.S. Forest Supervisor Van Every). Great job, Krista and Gesse!

Chairperson Nita Battise, Councilman Maynard Williams, Councilman Roland Poncho (in the capacity of Housing Director) and McClamroch Battise (Housing Board Commissioner) traveled to Scottsdale, Arizona for the 2015 Amerind Risk/NAIHC (National American Indian Housing Council) Annual Convention & Tradeshow (May 11-15) which was held in the Talking Stick Resort. The three-day event was packed with Breakout Sessions covering topics (over 60) ranging from Performance Management, Planning & Managing Affordable Housing, Tribal Construction & Rehab Financing, Fundamentals of Effective Land Management, Veterans Housing in Indian Country plus...
TRIBAL COUNCIL (continued)

Ethics; Responsibility; Creating a Culture of Accountability. The last evening event offered a dinner for all conference participants, an awards ceremony plus traditional tribal dances of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, our Host Tribe. We were well-received and the services offered to us was outstanding.

Secretary Johnny Stafford attended the USET Semi-Annual Meeting in Mashantucket, Connecticut during the week of May 18th. Due to scheduling conflicts and constraints, he was the one representative from Tribal Council available to attend. Secretary Stafford served on the Board of Directors for this meeting and received his first experience in this capacity.

On Wednesday, May 20, The Alabama-Coushatta Head Start held their “End of the Year Celebration” and the Golden Anniversary of Head Start in the Multi-Purpose Center with our young students and Head Start Alumni. The songs and dances performed by the children were too precious and quite animated. Parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, teachers, Head Start Alumni, guests and friends made this celebration fun and memorable. Chairperson Battise, Councilman Clint Poncho and Treasurer Pete Polite presented a Proclamation on behalf of Tribal Council acknowledging 50 years of outstanding service to the Tribe and the surrounding communities within Polk County.

Vice-Chairman Ronnie Thomas, Media Communications Director Carlos Bullock, (Gaming Authorization Team) and Petti & Briones (General Counsel) have been working diligently to seek avenues to move our Federal Bill forward. Both Vice-Chairman Thomas and Mr. Bullock have traveled to Phoenix to research, review and formulate Pre-Development Agreements, Requirements of a Gaming Facility, Development of Class II Gaming Ordinances and Texas Gaming status. These items are beneficial to our federal and state efforts in conjunction with the Tribal Bingo Initiative.

On May 22, 2015, Jon Tester, Senior Senator from Montana, on behalf of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, introduced S. 1457: A bill to restore an opportunity for tribal economic development on terms that are equal... and fair, and for other purposes. (“S.” in “S. 1457” means this is a Senate bill in the United States Congress). This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs which will consider it before sending it to the Senate floor for consideration.

On May 21, Chairperson Battise traveled to Austin to give testimony on behalf of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe in support of House Bill 825 before the Senate State Affairs Committee. Senator Carlos Uresti sponsored HB 825 in the Senate after it passed the House. HB 825 was introduced by Representative Helen Giddings and testimony was presented before the House Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues on March 18. The bill would add an amendment to the Texas Family Code that would place a duty on the courts hearing child custody cases to inquire if the child or the child’s family has Native American heritage. The bill also places a duty on the court to identify any Native American child of a federally-recognized tribe with which the child may be associated in order to ascertain if the court should comply with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

On Tuesday, May 26, the Texas Legislature passed HB 825 and it is now headed to the Governor’s office for his review and approval. Chairperson Battise expresses her sincere appreciation to both Mikko Colabe III and Mikko Skaalaba, Vice-Chairman Thomas, Tribal Council, Governor Carlos Hisa and Lt. Governor Chris Gomez of the Isleta del Sur Pueblo, JoAnn and Arnold Battise, Samantha Battise, Michelle Thompson Janis, Jonelle Battise, Carlos Bullock, Joey Bennett, Patti Briones and Nancy McDonald, who worked together with Representative Giddings and Senator Uresti to make this bill a reality. “Aliilamolo”.

On the State level, the deadline to pass bills on the floor was Wednesday, May 27 and HJR 129 did
TRIBAL COUNCIL (CONTINUED)

NOT get out of committee. We did have the support of 7 of the 9 members in the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee. The main reason that HJR 129 was not moved through the process is that NO revenue bills of any kind were considered during the regular session. Whether it was gaming, money for transportation infrastructure or school finance, this legislature had the goal of cutting taxes. Approximately, $3.8 million in tax cuts. Now that the regular session is over, the legislature will then face the consequences of those cuts. Where will the revenue come from? Every revenue source will be considered as a way to allow the state to meet its obligations which means the Tribe’s bill (HJR 129) is in a better position now.

On May 28, Chairperson Battise attended the 46th Annual D.E.T.C.O.G. (Deep East Texas Council of Governments) Membership and Awards Luncheon held in the Pitser Garrison Civic Center in Lufkin, Texas. Texas BBQ and Texas Tall Tales were shared with members present and during the awards presentation the prestigious Ralph W. Steen “East Texan of the Year” Memorial Award was given to Representative James White (District 19). Rep. White was not present to accept his award as he was tirelessly working for his constituents in Austin. He is and continues to be a great supporter and advocate for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe. Congratulations, Representative White, a recognition well-earned and well-deserved!

To round out the month of May, Chairperson Battise, Secretary Stafford, Councilman Roland Poncho and Tribal Administrator Stephanie Williams attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Woodville District Office of Congressman Brian Babin (36th District). His office is located in the Tyler County Courthouse which has been going through interior renovations. The original woodwork, ornate ceiling design and window treatment have been brought back to near mint condition. We presented Congressman Babin with a pine needle basket by Doris Battise which now has a prominent display in his office.

Only one regularly scheduled meeting and two Special Called Meetings were held this month due to conflicting schedules and postponements.

The following actions were taken during these meetings:

- Received update from the Chief Law Enforcement Administrator
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2015-30 – National Forests & Grasslands Supplemental Project Agreement
- Approved Returning Membership Applications of eight Tribal Members
- Accepted the report of the 1st quarter Tribal Membership application. We have eight new Tribal Members
- Approved the MOU between the Tribe and the Child Support Attorney General
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2015-31 – FY 2016 CCDF Application
- Approved FY 2016 Funding of Title IV-B
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2015-31 – Tobacco Sales Permit – One Stop
- Approved ACITC Resolution #2015-31 – Tobacco Sales Permit – Reservation Smoke Shops
- Received quarterly report of Tribal Investments
- Reviewed and discussed Chief Law Enforcement Administrator’s report
- Received report from the Powwow Committee regarding the upcoming Annual Powwow and its budget
- Approved the Contract for Services for Tribal Court Judge – Ken Dies
- Approved Amendments to the Contracts of Dana Williams, Jennifer Bergman, and with Lindsey B. Whisenhant Law Firm
- Approved the Project Summary and MOA regarding the Construction of Sanitation Facility
- Approved the Revised Organizational Structure of Tribal Departments
TRIBAL COUNCIL (CONTINUED)


We wish you the very best in your future endeavors and encourage you to “earn your feather and make your people proud of you.”

Congratulations to our College/University students who achieved success by tremendous perseverance and tremendous will.

Melissa Celestine - Stephen F. Austin State University – Bachelor of Science Degree in Child Development & Family Living
Britni Battise - Baylor College of Dentistry
Daniel Williams – Sam Houston State University

We extend our congratulations to Courtney Thomas, daughter of Vice-Chairman Ronnie Thomas, who received her Associate of Applied Science degree from United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota.

ATTENTION: ATHLETIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES - Tribal Council will be awarding a male and female graduate with the Alabama-Coushatta Scholar-Athlete Award on Monday, July 27, 2015. Information and Applications will be available at the Tribal Council Office. The deadline to submit the application is Wednesday, July 22nd. You may contact Andrea Poncho at 936.563.1212 or come by the Tribal Council Office to pick up an application.

Indian Health Services

Tribal Chairperson Nita Battise, Tribal Council Secretary Johnny Stafford, and Council Member Roland Poncho join Congressman Brian Babin as he opened his Woodville Office. Chairperson Battise presented the Congressman a Pine needle Basket made by Tribal Elder Doris Battise.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

Tribal Chairperson Nita Battise presented a $15,000 check to the Indian Health Service from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids which is a nonprofit organization based in New York City. Tribal Member R. Keith Bullock is the Office Manager at Broadway Cares, and the generous donation to the Clinic was made on his behalf. Broadway Cares has been donating to the Tribe since 2004 and has given a total of $130,000 during this time frame. Alilamolo to Keith and Broadway Cares.
TRIBAL ELDERS

Activities for the month of June:

6/2/15 Crockett Resource Center-learn hands on computer skills, nutrition class and play games **FOOD IS PROVIDED** Please sign up by 6/1/15, leaving senior citizen center @ 8:15 AM

6/9/15 Crown Home Health Services will sponsor a bingo/blood pressure and O2 checks, 10 AM

6/15/15 Crown Home Health Services will give a presentation on Emergency Preparedness Presentation, 11:30 AM

BEGINNING June 11th at the Senior Citizen Center a “Diabetic Self-Management Class” will begin from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM each Thursday until July 9th. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME!!!! A LIGHT DISH WILL BE PROVIDED. DOOR PRIZES!**

**********************************Reminder************************

*****

July 15th will be the quarterly homebound day trip lunch. Please sign up asap.

July 17th will be the senior citizen day trip to a dinner and movie. Please sign up. This is only for the senior citizens NOT participating in the annual trip in August.

Homebound senior citizens please call the senior citizen kitchen at 563-1268 if you do not need a lunch meal delivered on a certain day. When the kitchen is not notified the delivery person must throw away the lunch meal.

I encourage each senior citizen to attend the presentations at the senior citizen center. This month there is an opportunity to attend the Diabetic Self-Management Class for June and July. Under the Title VI Grant I must have a certain number of presentations throughout the year and the attendance is very important.

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

We would like to welcome Shawna Williams as the new Intake Clerk for the Tribal Child Support Program. She started last week and is doing a fantastic job with understanding our program and job duties. We would also like to thank Meagan Williams who worked as our temporary clerk and did a splendid job while our case worker, Lori Battise was out on medical leave. Thank you again!

If you are interested in picking up a Child Support application, you may come by our office which is located below the Cultural Center around the back. We’ll be happy to go over the application with you and assist you with any questions you may have. Or you can call our office at (936) 563-1332.

The Tribal Child Support Staff:
Samantha Battise, CSE Director
Lori Battise, Case Worker/Financial Specialist
Shawna Williams, Intake Clerk

COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA RELATIONS

We still want to encourage Tribal Members to sign up to receive up to date information, Newsletters, news articles, pictures of Tribal Events, notices and other information via email. You can sign up by emailing this department with a message titled Information Sign Up to:

Carlos Bullock: bullock.carlos@actribe.org
Or
Emma Abbey: abbey.emma@actribe.org

Please contact our office for more information at (936) 563-1120 or (936) 563-1131.
ACT HOLDINGS

We’d like thank the tribal community for your continuous support to ACT Holdings, LLC. On Monday, May 4, 2015, we had our quarterly Information Meeting with the tribal elders and tribal members. Bryan Small gave an update on our activities with ACTH and Ochana Industries, LLC. Please save the date on our next meeting on Monday, July 13, 2015. We will meet with Tribal Elders at 11:30 a.m. and with the tribal community at 6 p.m. at the Special Events Center.

We are happy to announce Ochana Industries, LLC will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, July 2, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ochana is located 2 miles west of Livingston city limits. Ochana staff will give a short tour of the facility as well as provide refreshments. The address to the facility is 4285 US Hwy 190 West, Livingston, Texas (by C H Marine).

On June 15-16, the Small Business Administration Office of Native American Affairs, sponsored by SynEnergy, will be here to conduct a small workshop. This workshop is ideal for tribal members interested in business development, locating opportunities for financing your business, small business owners and future entrepreneurs. The workshop will be held at the Training Room in the Cultural Center basement. Times vary on each day: Monday, June 15th at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (see attached flier) For any questions or concerns, or to RSVP, please contact Yolanda Poncho at 936-563-1382.

As always, we invite you to come to our offices at the cultural center basement. Or you can always call or email us. We look forward to seeing you at our Open House on July 2nd. Aleela-amoloo!

Bryan Small
CEO
Bryan.small@actholdings.net
936-563-1381

Yolanda Poncho
Executive Assistant
yolanda.poncho@actholdings.net
936-563-1382
Cultural & Natural Resources Tribal Elder’s Day 2015 was held at the Lake Tombigbee Pavilion despite rainy conditions the entire day went well with a good audience in attendance and fellowship.

Katie Daniel, Tombigbee Lake Manager, started the morning presentations with an overview of camping and programs currently being offered at the Lake. Ms. Daniel did an excellent job of presenting information and made a request to the Tribal elders with help naming some of the woodland trails surrounding the Lake.

Jenna Battise, Tribal Environmental Specialist, next on the agenda provided information on environmental issues on Reservation lands, networking with other Tribal Environmental Programs and illegal dumping and enforcement issues.

Amon Sylestine, Tribal Water Quality Specialist, demonstrated his water quality sampling techniques to the audience and provided information on Tribal water resources contamination issues.

Mike Clamon, Assistant Foreman, Memorial Resources Development, and Cecilia Flores, Tribal Minerals Management Technician and gave an overview of the oil and gas production process.

Lunch was provided by the following programs and individuals:

- Cindi Flores & Jeremiah Thompson and Tribal Elder’s Center staff-Brisket and baked potatoes
- Carla Kowena donated a pot of chicken gumbo
- Tribal Environmental Programs, with assistance from Ms. Tasheena Castillo, provided sandwiches, chips and fruit salad.
- Drinks donated by Maynard Williams and Oil & Gas Department

After lunch presentations continue with presentation from James Stephenson, newly hired-Solid Waste Facility Manager, presented information on current solid waste issues and their efforts to reduce the waste stream which will save tribal resources.

Cecilia Flores presented information on Tribal Oil & Gas issues, federal agencies involved with consultations, production declines and oil & gas revenues.

Don Sylestine, Forestry Supervisor, presented information on updated total tribal land holdings and status (lands held in trust versus fee simple lands). Obrey Alec, Forestry Aid Technician, provided information on program services and Kerwin “Koe” Williams, Fire Management, presented information on the Wildland
Fire Fighters Program and did a good job on handling questions concerning residential work orders. Forestry crew also provided a field trip to a tribal long leaf pine reforestation project on tribal property in the Holder Road Area.

Bryant Celestine, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Tobine Alec, Cultural Programs Director, conducted their presentation at the Old School House, which has been restored and will serve as the new Welcome Center. They presented information on various topics relating to the cemetery project, plants, cultural monitors program, new technology, and provided an excellent opportunity for participating elders to exchange information and to ask questions amongst their peers.

Thank you to the Cultural and Natural Resources Program managers and staff for pitching in and presenting a good program to keep our tribal elders informed on our programs.

Thank you to the Alabama-Coushatta Police Officers, Makesha Young and Andre McCall for providing shuttle service.

Thank you to Willo Sylestine, Emergency Management, for attending and standing by to assist.

Thank you to Carlos Bullock for covering the event and taking pictures.

Thank you to Stephanie Williams, Tribal Administrator and Donna Dickens, Tribal Finance Officer for your assistance and authority in making this presentation possible.

Thank you to the family of the late Frank Polite for permission to use his artwork on event flyers.

Thank you to Tribal Council Members for your interest and support; Nita Battise, Tribal Council Chairperson; Johnny Stafford, Tribal Council Secretary; Roland Poncho, Tribal Council Member; Maynard Williams, Tribal Council Member.

Alelamolo! To the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Elders; we respect, appreciate and greatly value your wisdom. The Cultural, Historical Preservation and Natural Resources Programs strive to ensure Tribal resources are managed to the best of our abilities so future generations will maintain and enjoy the natural beauty of our home, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Indian Reservation.
Summer Hours 1pm-6pm

Our children are beautiful creatures; they are raw, brutal, compassionate, and operate entirely from their emotional body – using feelings as their guidance. There is something so captivating about a child that has captured the idea that impossibility and fear does not exist – so full of fantasy, a magical belief system, and utter nonsense. Their connection to Abbali Chokoolee, their overpowering imagination, surreal way of thinking, and especially THEIR INNOCENCE is something that seems to dissipate into the design of society. Our day-to-day worldly operations has put aside child-like insightfulness - like grains of sand that have scattered to the winds.

And as we grow into adulthood, we learn from those around us – taking in all that is around us... strengthening purity while contaminating our innocence with good and bad, right and wrong, love and hate … many times – the negative aspects of this life outweighing the positive. Some spend the rest of their lives search for the newly perceived notion of innocence– forgetting that that type of consciousness can easily be found by simply turning to wisdom of our children. It is quite a humbling to experience the love and compassion that only a child can give… as well as listening to all they have to say to each other, about each other, to us and about us.

We have been fortunate to be able to witness the energy and vibrancy of our children through their participation here at Youth Programs. We are glad to say that however it came to be… we are thankful that Abbali Chokoolee brought us here to work amongst and FOR our young people. We do our best to reaffirm their hearts and strengthen their minds, and restore the security and confidence in “just being a child”… recollecting the sands - even if one grain at a time - once scattered to the winds.

We all learn by the use of our senses… and just as we as adults use them to understand and communicate with the world around us – so do our children. They use their sense of sight, hearing, smelling, taste, and touch to shape their development and their emotion to enjoy or not enjoy what is going on around them. Our children are a projection of their environment(s) and here at Youth Programs we involve this understanding to draw their attention in learning, performance, and creativity…. And to demonstrate habits of respect to and for themselves and others. We all have special needs… and we need these “lil ladies and gentlemen” more than we could ever fully comprehend.
YOUTH PROGRAMS (Continued)

******* April was a fun-filled month. There are no words that could beautifully reflect the overwhelming appreciation we feel towards our Tribal departments and Tribal Elders that took part in our Adopt-a-Child program. It was a deeply moving experience to see the kids’ faces light up with such excitement and joy each time their name was called for a delivery. For some, the love and attention that they received through the kindness of “strangers” was something that they had never known.

Other projects we were involved in during the month of April include:

- Observed Easter through craft projects, egg hunt, and Prize store.
- Child Abuse Prevention wreath project with the Social Services department: the children used scraps of cloth to make wire hanger wreaths that were hung in the doorways of our Tribal offices.
- “I Strengthen My Nation” Public Service Announcement: the child(ren) were featured on a Tribal-wide PSA recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention month- “What is done to one is felt by all”
- Moccasin Project: the individually designed moccasin tops were displayed in the front lobby of the Cultural Center during the month of April – with each child’s picture and telling about the child’s interests
- EPA “Earth Day” Art Contest

May was just as equally eventful!!!

- The Youth took the time to write “Alelamolo” letters to their Adopt-a-Child sponsors
- We made a sign for our Tribal Veterans during the 50th Anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War event – as well as made signs that were sent to our Veterans
- Learned about our Veterans and who they are learning about our own Alabama-Coushatta Flag song and the meaning behind the words – as it is sung in our Alabama language
- Observed Mother’s Day through craft projects – “Hand” crafted bouquet of flowers, “heart of the home” wall hanging
- Observed Older Americans Month by creating individual cover art for cards to be given to our elders – this included a small card with the “Lord’s Prayer” our Alabama language
- Studied about and observed Memorial Day by reviewing what we had learned about our Veterans and our Alabama-Coushatta flag song – we made a small puzzle and included it with our cards that were given to our elders
- Contributed to the Inner Voice Youth Council’s Today’s Native Leaders documentary project by participating in our various language activities

And, although the month of June is just beginning… we are already in full swing with our Summer Schedule to accommodate our students on “flex days” schedule for the remainder of the school year. Activities include:
• Studying and observing preparations for our Tribal homecoming – our 47th Annual Powwow
• Mr. DJ Spear came and spoke with the youth about his Tribe and the importance of tipis to his tribes
• Mr. Spear and Mr. Chancellor Morris donated their time, and Mr. Anthony Battise of Lake Management came and set-up a tipi in front of the Youth building with the assistance of some the Youth Programs participants.

Our children that participate in our activities are served a meal as soon as they get off the bus. Thereafter, those that have homework are sent to the Education office to attend tutoring sessions – where they are able to receive individual assistance from the tutor. We have incorporate the usage of our Alabama language, culture, and tradition in and through various activities whenever and however we can – activities are also primarily as S.T.E.A.M.-based (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) as possible – which maintains the much needed sense of connection to our Tribal heritage. We make every effort to facilitate communication and collaboration to leverage local resources where they exist - strengthening our network of partnerships & local support and building on the connections amongst youth, their families, Tribal leaders, elders and other community resources.

This has just been a lil glimpse of all the “happenings” and “goings-on” here at Youth Programs. We are thankful for the volunteers, donations, words of encouragement, and support … AND PATIENCE!!! – that we have received from everyone!!! Just a lil bit goes a long way. Also, thank you to all the parents/guardians for your cooperation in coming in to sign your child out… and even taking the time to see what they have been up to!!!

**** And as always: PARENTS: We are requesting UPDATED information for each child enrolled in Youth Programs. This is for the protection of each child that we have in our care.

Please keep in mind that children that get off at the Youth Programs bus stop are the responsibility of the Youth Programs until they are SIGNED OUT or we hear otherwise from parents. Children are to sign in with Youth Programs – to be sure that an adequate number of snacks are prepared for all children.

In an age where youth are a higher risk of turning to alcohol, violating the law, and participating in risky behavior, our Alabama-Coushatta Tribal youth are vulnerable as they navigate between the worlds of mainstream America and our own Tribal community. Although most of the youth are not considered “at-risk” – many of them are. Some come from unstable homes with an unconventional sense of family, silently suffering to find that sense of security; while others are exposed to unsupervised time, drugs, alcohol, , and other addictive lifestyles.

With Youth leadership on the rise, the Inner Voice Youth Council gives these youth a safe harbor - a respite in a world of exposure to delinquent behavior, uncertainty and stress. Members strive to model healthy lifestyles by seeking alternative to activities involving risky behaviors as achieved through fun and innovative
YOUTH PROGRAMS (Continued)

ways to engage and keep the attention of youth and community. The implementation culturally sensitive pre-
vention and intervention activities & in-house trainings during their meetings/gatherings has struck a chord
with members who are able to see the evidence amongst themselves of how it has brought healing to our youth
and renewed their sense of pride - thus benefiting the community as a whole.
So, as we seek to engage, educate, and motivate our Tribal community - we have not and cannot continue to do
this alone – and the contributions of your time and finances that we receive is greatly appreciated. The result
of your help means the Alabama-Coushatta Youth Council will be able to continue to provide the positive rein-
forcement that our young people so greatly deserve.

With that being said, Youth Council has been just as equally as busy with their many meetings, fundraisers,
community service, and other activities – while taking care of business at school (each at their respective high
schools & colleges) by maintaining their scholastic successes, preparing for various benchmark tests & final
exams, and competing in athletic events.

And, as the deadline for the Youth Council’s Today’s Native Leaders docu-
mentary project quickly approaches our
members will be going around filming
and requesting to interview various indi-
viduals. This undertaking has been quite
a learning experience for all involved –
they have gained self-confidence,
strengthened their public speaking abili-
ties, and advanced their technical skills.

The members have a confirmed invitation to the much anticipated Generation: Indigenous White House Tribal
Youth Gathering on July 9, 2015. This will be held one day prior to the start of the 2015 National United Na-
tional Indian Tribal Youth (U.N.I.T.Y) Conference also to be held in Washington, DC July 10-14, 2015.
Eighteen (18) Youth Council members will be representing the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe. Additionally, Se-
quia Obe will be completing her term on the National UNITY Executive Council – Southern Plains repres-
sentative. Our congratulations and continuing encouragement to all of our Tribal Youth as they prepare for
this outstanding endeavor!!!

New Membership in the INNER VOICE YOUTH COUNCIL is always welcomed!!! -and not limited to just
“on-reservation” Native youth. There are many opportunities for “off-reservation” membership too – contact
the Youth Programs office for more details!!

During the month of June, the Youth Council will be in full fundraiser mode. In the meantime, keep an eye
out for our flyers, emails, text messages, and Facebook posts!!! If you have a comment question or concern…
please do not hesitate to contact Youth Programs at 563-1279 / 1278 / 1270 or stop by the youth building!!!
We are here to help and open the doors to new opportunities for our youth!!!
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Fall Semester 2015 Tribal & BIA applications/Financial Aid deadline is Tuesday, June 30, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. at the Education Department.

ALL 2015 SENIORS: Please stop the Education Office and check with the Counselor, Crystal Battise –Stephenson for your paperwork. Please call the office first and set an appointment with the Secretary, Kim Williams. (936)563-1280

SUMMER TUTORIALS SESSIONS:
Must be enrolled member of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. The Summer Tutorials session is still under the Johnson O’Malley program. The program is for six weeks, 2 days a week (Tuesdays & Thursdays).

Weeks as follows:

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY GRADUATES AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Stephen F. Austin State University, December 12, 2014
Melissa Celestine

Sam Houston State University, May 09, 2015
Daniel Williams

Texas A&M University, Baylor College of Dentistry, May 2015
Britni Battise

Big Sandy I.S.D. Friday, June 06, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Duane Accuttoroop, Vera Celestine, Camille Johnson, Laine Langley, Tristan Polite, Shelby Thompson, Walker Tolar, Whittney Tolar, Jaycie Williams, Kierra Williams, Mercedes Williams, Tahnwnee Williams, Trent Williams

Langham Creek I.S.D. Friday, June 06, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Tanah Battise

North Shore Senior I.S.D. Friday, June 06, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Dominic Alec

Woodville I.S.D. Friday, June 06, 2015 8:00 p.m.
Carlee Alec, Alannah Battise, Morgan Poncho, Whitney Williams

Livingston I.S.D. Saturday, June 07, 2015 10:00 a.m.
Anthony Rodriguez
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Lendrick Ervin Andrew Polite on your graduation from Oberlin High School! We love and pray for you always!

From your family

Congratulation Chakota Dancingwind Beene Class of 2015 Waller High School Graduate We are soooo proud of your accomplishments and looking forward to what lies ahead For your future. May Our Creator continue to Bless and guide your path.

From your family with love
Dad, Augie, Kianah, Ahpo, Ahwo, Angel, Sage, Seth, Naaniboy, Dey, and Soola

Taylor Prentiss is graduating from Piedra Vista High School. Her future plans are to attend Fort Lewis College in Durango Colorado and study Zoology. She was a member of the high school swim team, Editor of the school newspaper for a year and she also took dual credit classes at San Juan College. She is the daughter of Dustin Prentiss and Granddaughter of the late Thomas Johnson.

Just some news about our daughters Toni and Kasi, who were recently accepted into the Tribe. June 2015 marks the end of Toni Galvan's second year of college at St. Edward's university. In her Spring 2015 semester, Toni received a 4.0 GPA which allowed her to earn her 4th Dean's List Certificate. However, school and classes are not the only things helping Toni along her path to secondary math education, this summer she plans to return to her summer teaching job. Toni works with Breakthrough Austin during the summer, furthering her education to become a teacher and furthering the education of low-income, middle school aged, future-first generation-college students.

This year, Kasi Galvan-Lucio completed her junior year of high school. With the conclusion of the academic school year, Kasi earned 2 player of the game awards for softball. In addition to Kasi's outstanding athletic ability, Kasi also earned Academic All-District for softball and volleyball. Kasi proves to be successful both on and off the field, as she recently was accepted into a rigorous college-level EMT course to be taken during her senior year of high school. Congratulations to both of these successful young ladies; looking forward to the things they may accomplish during the next school year. -Vincent and Regina Lucio
CONGRATULATIONS (Continued)

We would like to give a BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Tristan Nicole Polite as she graduates from Big Sandy High School on Friday, June 5, 2015. We are so proud of her accomplishments: National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and she recently completed curriculum to become a National Certified Insurance and Coding Specialist. Tristan will be attending the University of Kansas this fall and plans to become a pediatric nurse. To Tristan: Kid, continue to look ahead. Keep your faith and continue to study the Bible as your Guide. Your journey is just beginning and it is so bright. We’re here for you; More, Most, Always, and Forever!

With so much love,
Mom and Haley

Congratulations Graduates!
Class of 2015

Congratulations to our graduates Cheyanne Celestine (Big Sandy High School), Whitney Williams (Woodville High School), Tanah Battise (Langham Creek High School) and Tahwnee Williams (Big Sandy High School).

We are so proud of you!

Love and Best Wishes,
Ahpo Lawrine and your entire family

We are so proud of the accomplishments you have made and the continuation you chose for your futures. Most of all I will miss ya playing high school basketball. We love ya “Roscoe” and “Jace”!!

Mom, Aleia, Savanna and Shanaya

Congrats to our grads, Trent and Jaycie Williams!!
THANK YOU

The family of Becky Stafford-White would like to take this time to say ‘thank you’ for all the prayers, beautiful flowers, and delicious meals that were provided by family and friends during our time of grief. All the phone calls and visits were greatly appreciated. It warms our hearts to know that our ‘loved one’ touched many lives and was cherished by many.

HELP AVAILABLE
From: Chuck McLaurin

I have been involved in ministry here at the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation for over 20 years. I am currently ministering at the Boys & Girls Club in Livingston, and have been involved at the Dunbar Gym ministry as well. I am a Board Member on the Community of Care at the Reservation and have ministered to prisoners on Death Row at the Polunsky Unit in Livingston.

I am available for one-on-one private spiritual counseling for adults. If you need prayer and support for any problems such as drug addiction, family violence, alcoholism, or depression & anxiety– please feel free to call me at 936-327-0911.

HEAD START END OF YEAR PROGRAM
American Cancer Society 5K Walk “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” was held at Discovery Green in downtown Houston. Tribal members Tanah, Garrett, and Shiloh Battise along with Cheyanne and Melissa Celestine participated in the event held on Saturday, May 16, 2015. They participated with team “ERIKS Gladiators” sponsored by Garrett’s employer Newdell a division of ERIKS Corporation.

**In honor of our mother Lawrine Battise and in memory of our Ahpo Lola Jack Battise.**

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**SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM**

The Summer Food Service Programs will begin on **MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015** at the Multi-Purpose Center. The bus route will begin picking up on **JOHNSON BRANCH starting at 10AM – please have your kids ready and waiting.** Summer Food Service Program is a federal grant program and in order to sustain this program, certain guidelines need to be followed. This include the use of the MPC – that means **any youth that comes to MPC during the hours of 11:00am to 1:00pm will be expected to be served a meal.** No open gym until most of the participants have completed their meal.

Participants must ride the bus home, youth program, or other parent designated drop off location – no walking off premises without prior parents/guardians approval in writing. **ALL YOUTH AND PARENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE RULES AS SET FORTH BY THE SFSP & STAFF!!** Other info and emergency contact requests will be sent home with participants – please complete and return as soon as possible. Thank you.

Any questions, please contact Carlene Bullock at 936-563-1279 or bullock.carlene@actribe.org.
Camp of the 12 Clans
July 17 - 19, 2015
Ages 10 - 18
Sponsored by
Historic Preservation and Cultural Programs Departments

Regular registration: $15 ends July 2nd
Late registration: $20 ends July 15th

Registration Packets will be located at the Cultural Center Receptionist Desk and in the Cultural Programs Office.

Language Skills       Weaponry        Kapuche Skills          Powwow Style Dancing
NO CELL PHONES OR ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICES

For Camp information:
Cultural Programs - Tobine Alec 936/563/1116 or alec.tobine@actribe.org
Historic Preservation - Bryant Celestine 936/563-1181 or celestine.bryant@actribe.org
Alabama-Coushatta Head Start celebrated the historic fifty year anniversary of Head Start which was first launched on May 18, 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Since its inception in the summer of 1965, Head Start and Early Head Start has served more than 32 million children nationwide. Head Start was founded on the principal that education is the door to opportunity. The staff and children of Alabama-Coushatta Head Start celebrated by presenting a program for parents, guests, and alumni on May 20 at the Alabama-Coushatta Multi-Purpose Center. A proclamation was presented to Head Start by Tribal Council Chairperson Nita Battise and read by Tribal Council member Clint Poncho honoring Head Start’s anniversary. We would like to thank the following:

Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council (Grantee)
Policy Council
Tribal Chiefs
Tribal Departments especially Multi-Purpose Center Staff & Forestry
Tribal Police
Rashyal & Frank Sylestine
Parents & volunteers who dedicated their time and efforts
SUMMER BACKPACK PROGRAM

What is the Summer Backpack Program?

The Summer Backpack Program consists of food items such as cereal, shelf-stable milk, beans and franks, and canned fruit that are handed out to children.

The Alabama-Coushatta Social Services office works with the First Baptist Church in Woodville, TX to get these food items from the Southeast Texas Food Bank.

When: June 11, 2015
Where: Social Services Office
Time: 10 am—3 pm

These handouts will occur weekly on Fridays throughout the summer. Supplies are limited to first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions, contact our office at (936) 563-1250. Thank you!
ALABAMA-COUShattA MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

June 8, 2015 through August 7, 2015

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

For more information, contact Carlene Bullock (936)563-1170
ITTAHNALKA
(LET’S GATHER)

Saturday, June 20, 2015
A-C Veteran’s Pavilion
Starting at 5pm

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING FILLED WITH FUN ACTIVITIES

• BINGO
• WA-HOO
• HORSESHOES
• DOMINOES
• VOLLEYBALL
• SCAVENGER HUNT

and MORE!

Dinner will be served at 6PM
Hamburgers and hot dogs will be on the menu.
Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

Sponsored by Ayiksa Lawa (many clans)
For more information contact Missy Janis at (936)563-1250
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Tuesday, JUNE 30 BY 5 PM

Email your news to: bullock.carlos@actribe.org or abbey.emma@actribe.org
Fax your news to: (936) 563-1137  Attention: JULY NEWSLETTER
Call if you have questions: (936) 563-1120 or (936) 563-1131
Drop your news off in the Public Information Inbox or
Stop by the Communications/Media Relations Office (located in the Cultural Center)

Please submit all information, news, announcements, etc. by the designated time so we can see you in our next issue!

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Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, Texas  77351